

Mr. J. O. Hall, lately acting British Consul at Yokohama, is appointed acting Assistant Judge at Shanghai, replacing Mr. Geo. Jamieson. Mrs. Hall is an old resident in Shanghai, being a daughter of the late Judge Goodwin.

A TYPHOON.

A real typhoon seems to have broken loose at last. About the beginning of this week, Dr. Dobbert said that, according to a certain paragraph in a certain work of his, a typhoon had possibly entered the China Sea in a low latitude. As all the steamers that arrived from Singapore since then reported fine weather and calm seas throughout, we have the Dr. was "swindled" out of his vague surmise, or at any rate a little "previous." Now, however, we have got a definite message from Bolinao, kindly sent us by the Spanish Consul, which is to the following effect:—

"A typhoon is raging in the N.W. of Luzon."

Whether this is Dr. Dobbert's typhoon, which after all did not enter the China Sea in a low latitude, but got bottled up at Luzon for a week, we cannot say, as we have not got a copy of the learned Dr.'s wonderful work beside us.

EXTRAORDINARY SERIES OF ACCIDENTS AT A FIRE.

A remarkable series of accidents illustrating very strikingly the dangers attendant on the work of the Fire Brigades occurred at a fire last night. The scene of the fire was Queen's Road West. About eight o'clock the house number 55, the lower portion of which was occupied as a drug store and watchmaker's shop, was seen to be on fire. The flames spread with extraordinary rapidity, and, besides making the destruction of the house itself inevitable, they soon enveloped the adjoining buildings. Before the Brigades reached the spot four houses were burning; and, as it was evident that nothing could be done to save them, the efforts of the brigades were confined to preventing the fire from spreading further. In this, after a good deal of hard work, they were fortunately successful. Copious streams of water had been poured on the burning buildings and those adjoining for nearly an hour and a half before the brigades diminished their exertions, and even after that time great care had to be taken to guard against any fresh outbreak. There had been considerable danger of the fire spreading backwards to Bohman Strand, but this was averted by a detachment of the Government Brigade, under Assistant Superintendent Horspool, who played on the fire from a narrow lane at the back of the burning houses. Shortly before nine o'clock, when all danger appeared to be past, the brigade men and spectators, of whom there was a large number, were startled by the walls of the burnt-out house giving way and falling with a tremendous noise. This happened so suddenly that there was barely time for the brigade men who were standing under them to get out of the way. That they did succeed in getting clear of the falling walls was almost a miracle, and indeed there was for some time a feeling almost amounting to certainty that a number of men must have been buried among the ruins. What more immediately engaged the attention of the brigade men was the safety of two of their number, Phelps and Beaton, who were on the top of one of the houses when they fell. By a most fortunate chance, however, both men escaped the fate that was felt certain must be theirs. Beaton succeeded in springing on to the veranda of an adjoining house just as he felt the one he was on giving way, but in doing so cut himself badly about the head. Phelps was hurled down with the masonry and buried under it, falling a distance of about forty feet. By another miracle some wooden beams fell in such a way as to form a roof over him, and as eventually was to be shielded by this that when his comrades had cleared an opening for him through the debris he stepped out unharmed. Other supposed victims were two Chinese members of the Government Brigade. One of these was standing near Assistant Foreman Phelps when the collapse occurred and fell on the street as safely as a cat. Thesecond Chinaman was seen to be standing on a veranda just before it fell. While a search was being made for him he unexpectedly appeared among the searchers, safe and sound. His escape was due to the fact that he felt the veranda giving way and stepped into the building just in time to save himself from being thrown down on the street. As might be expected, it was with a feeling of profound thankfulness that it was found no loss of life had occurred.

But the most surprising accident of the evening was yet to occur. Scarcely had the brigade men recovered from the shock of the first fall of walls when another crash was heard, caused by another falling of walls. A body of the Volunteer Brigade were playing on the still burning portions of the buildings from the top of the mass of ruins and their position exposed them to considerable danger. A number of them narrowly escaped being overwhelmed in the falling masonry, but it was believed they had all got away without any serious damage. It was not so, however; one of their number, Mr. R. P. Dipple, was at that time actually buried beneath a mass of the fallen masonry. What was more remarkable was that his position was unknown to any but himself for more than three hours; and, most wonderful of all, he was at the end of that long period of entombment got out, not only alive but without more serious injury than a number of cuts and bruises, although some of these are severe. He had been protected by the beams which fell over him, while, while relieving him of the crushing weight of material above, at the same time made a little space and enabled him to breathe, although with difficulty. One arm was free and could be moved about, but the rest of his body was held as in a vice. He was unable to make any noise that would attract the attention of those who would so willingly have saved him from his awful position had they known of it. The other members of the Volunteer Brigade had left the scene of the fire about ten o'clock. The fall was called as usual, and Mr. Dipple's absence was explained by the presumption that he had gone home. It is a thousand pities that no suspicion entered the head of any of the members as to Mr. Dipple's safety, but there appears to have been not the slightest apprehension of anything like what had really occurred. The second fall of walls included those of two houses of which the fire had not taken hold, and the possibility of more houses coming down led to orders being given to the brigade men not to expose themselves to danger more than was absolutely necessary. As usual a detachment of the Government Brigade remained to watch against any fresh outbreak after the work of subduing the fire had been accomplished, and it was by one of this party, Foreman Kemp, that Mr. Dipple's terrible plight was discovered. Foreman Kemp thought he heard a sound like moaning from the mass of ruins, and believing that one of the Chinese firemen had been buried beneath it at once set about clearing a way to the spot from which the sounds proceeded. This was about one o'clock. Some of the Chinese who were removing the fallen masonry spoke to the fireman, and Mr. Dipple's voice was heard answering, "I'm not a Chinaman, I'm an Englishman." The relieving party worked with a will and soon had Mr. Dipple out of the grave, in which he had lain crushed and suffocating for three long hours that must have seemed an eternity. He is now in the Government Civil Hospital and is progressing as favourably as could be expected, and it is hoped that in a week he will be himself again. The house in which the fire broke out was occupied by Mr. Ng Man Kwan, and the lower floor was insured in the Straits Insurance Company's Office for \$12,000. The adjoining house, number 53, was insured in the same office for \$6,000. All the houses were of the ordinary Chinese type, containing shops below and dwelling-houses above. During the time the fire was raging the number of spectators was very large, but excellent order was kept by a body of police under Captain Superintendent Deane.

FRAGRANT WATERS' MOURNER.

That the chief excitement of the week, if any, have been the repeated thunder-bursts and rain-storms, with an occasional imaginary typhoon blown in. That altogether the condition of one or other of the elements is, for the time being, unfavourable: when there is no fire there is a water-spout, and vice versa. That for this season of the year fires are uncommonly frequent, and it is high time the Fire Brigade were put on a proper footing; but this is a subject I cannot touch upon without belling over. That Mr. J. S. Brewer has done much for the Brigade, and seems to have got little credit or thanks for it, and being of a bashful nature he resists all attempts to be drawn on the subject. That at last night's fire the escape of some members of the Brigade with their lives was miraculous, and as it is, one or two of the Volunteers were seriously hurt. That the Government ought really to shut their eyes no longer to the fact that in nearly every case of fire it is reported and believed by the Chinese best capable of knowing that the shop in which the fire originated is much over-insured. That the pressing need for an Inquest into the cause of every fire that occurs here is thereby clearly demonstrated. That the coming election is not an excitement worth mentioning, even although the decision appears to be more doubtful now than when I last wrote. That the only interest in this matter is now centred in the three or four odd men who are said to have given an evasive answer to the supporters of both candidates, and whose votes are expected to turn the scale on the Laytonian or Franciscan side. That I still adhere to my opinion, that the merchant will be the successful candidate. That the opinions expressed last week about the unwise action of the Dock Directors in the *Arday* case have not given universal satisfaction to the Board, although a large number of shareholders have warmly approved the ventilation of the subject by Captain Stuart and your humble servant. That it ought to be a very simple matter for the Board to put themselves right with the shareholders and the public on this subject. That Ramour has it that the operations for floating the *Arday* are proceeding to the satisfaction of those concerned. That the question one meets with now is, What is the next stock to be set upon by the Bears?

That I see Labouchere alleges that Abdul Hak of Hyderabad Mining Company, formerly, sent eight brokers into the Stock Exchange of London at jubilee time to bid up the shares, and that they were

all bought in two blocks with consecutive numbers from one jobber.

That, as there are many jobbers and legions of brokers, of all sorts here, with many stocks, Boards of Directors and Consulting Committees, the question may well be put, How is the Stock Exchange worked in these parts?

That, a remedy frequently proposed is a wedding out of the fraternity by the inauguration of a system of sworn brokers. That Directors and members of Consulting Committees would probably also have to be sworn to secrecy.

That, at the same time, members of Consulting Committees are often quoted as authorities when they have never opened their lips.

That the suggestion to offer a prize for the biggest "bungler" told on the local Bourse has been often made, and as frequently withdrawn, as the competition is already much too keen.

That no doubt I shall be accused of ill-natured cynicism, but all the same, the fact is there and it is one which the Community cannot afford to disregard much longer.

That much might be said concerning the way public affairs are being run in this Colony, on the one hand principle—there is only one Allah, and Mahomet is his prophet; but it will, perhaps, be better to await events.

That many of the cargo-boats are still without licenses, and only a few of the boat-coolies have as yet been photographed; but I am glad to hear the mere threat of the Police Magistracy proved sufficient to bring prizes down to the authorized scale.

That Government are bound to support those shippers who have decided, if the opportunity is afforded them, to take a stand against the extortion of the boat-people, and it would appear that this view has at last dawned upon the Guild.

That the words of Judge Russell should be deeply impressed upon every Chinese in this Colony, and the orderly and law-abiding native ought to re-echo them and make the Celestials understand that, once a man comes under the British flag, no one can coerce him into going anywhere against his will.

That the Law alone can coerce, and even this coercion is permissible only on account of a break of the law and upon "proof of guilt," carried out for the welfare of the community.

That from all I can hear the observations of the Acting Chief Justice are but too well founded, this practice of waylaying having lately been enormously on the increase.

That the stories told are both romantic and incredible, but that they must have some foundation of truth, and one feels ill at ease when one thinks over the repeated failures to convict in cases where Chinese alone are implicated.

That the recent death of the coolie in Second Street, who was alleged to have been beaten because he refused to emigrate, and the escape of the rascals concerned with the ill-usage, are not reassuring, as they indicate the poor grip we have over the lower classes of Chinese.

That, although the *esprit de corps* in the Police Force would have been better observed had the case of the two "littigant" "Robbies" been settled out of Court, it still stands to reason that no rule of the service can interfere with a man's rights at common law.

That although the Sanitary Board have not favoured the public lately with any of those lucid, comprehensive and eminently satisfactory Minutes of their valuable deliberations, it is generally believed that the so-called Municipal Board of Health still exists.

That it is also beyond dispute that the smells on Praya Central are, if anything, more tangible than ever.

That if I had been a member of the Sanitary Board I would have done as Lord Wolsey did, threatened to resign, and I would have varied his programme by actually resigning a body which has been long "in suspense" waiting for a new corporation and new clothes, and has never got them.

That the poor Sanitary Board, individually and collectively, is very much to be pitied.

That the vile traffic in samshoo is again in full swing in the Harbour, and poor Jack of course gets into trouble as the sparks fly upwards.

That it would be interesting to know why the Thames experiment of plying tea and coffee launches should not be tried in Hongkong.

That the liquor-smugglers here are ingenious, and a new dodge has been hit upon; small boats go round the Harbour with jars of water for sale, but in some of the jars the fire-water for Jack is found and made a note of.

That things are revealing a curious phase in England when we read that Mr. Dadabhai Nowrojee will stand at the next General Election in the Liberal interest for Central Finsbury.

That Dr. Ho Kai or Mr. Ho Anai as Member for Greenwell would sound well in the course of time, when the Federation of the Empire is complete.

That the attempt to exclude Chinese immigrants from the Australian Colonies does not become much clearer from the light thrown upon it by official telegrams. That if our only General here could but lift up his voice (it is a good voice withal)

in our Councils as Lord Wolsey has done in the Gilded Chamber, he could at least unfold about unpropitiously and empty embassies that would round as dim as the recent speech in the House of Lords.

That it is hard to say whether our General ever threatened to resign and go into Parliament in the Reform interest, though the fatal dilatoriness of the Home officials is enough to drive him to do something rash; but I have heard that he has really resigned himself—to circumstances and the stern logic of facts.

That we in Hongkong have a heavy score to settle with the Home Government; but that, if so much has yet to be done at Home for the defence of the heart of the Empire, we may have to wait many weary months before we can see those promise-burning guns.

That we don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do—we have but very few guns to fight with.

That I must look about for a comfortable handbox, with cotton wool lining, if things come to the worst.

That the Colony will, I sincerely hope, be saved from any greater calamity than the visit of the Astronomical Doctor's typhoons till I have made my pile out of the yellow gold of Fungion and the black diamonds of Tonquin, and can take ship in one of the sixty-knot liners to some distant and beautiful Isle of the Sea.

That the old *Victor Emanuel*, with her drab upper and lower decks, has invaded a large number of our gallant sailors of late years, and she should be relegated to the care of "Old Dave" or some other salt-water deity, while proper quarters should be built at Kowloon for the Commodore and his staff.

That probably this view of the case has never struck the wise men of Whitehall, as Hospital records go for nothing when money has to be spent.

BROWNIE.

WE take the following items from late Home papers brought on by the German mail:—

GREEKS. Athens, April 15.—The Greek Government yesterday signed a Convention with the *Société Internationale* for the construction of a railway which will connect the central portion of the Peloponnese with the chief ports of that portion of the kingdom.

The Turkish authorities recently deprived the Greek Macedonian of his title, and he had been prosecuting several leading Greeks of that province on a charge of conspiring with the Greek Consuls against the interests of Turkey in Macedonia. It is alleged that these accusations are false, and a good deal of ill-feeling has been roused here and elsewhere against the Turks in consequence.

THE SULTAN AND THE ARMENIANS. Constantinople, April 14.—The Armenians are much annoyed at the Sultan having promised to a much higher rank than the Armenians, the Armenian who is the author of the present misunderstanding between his Majesty and his Armenian subjects. The Sultan, moreover, has refused the offer of an Armenian cemetery adjacent to his Yildiz property, which he some short time ago was anxious to incorporate in the same.

In the same circles these acts are interpreted as a declaration of war upon their community, and they have produced the worst possible effect. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has called upon the Patriarch to disavow the action of the Armenian Patriotic Association in London in presenting a memorial to the Sultan.

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EXPULSION OF JEWS FROM RUSSIA. Odessa, 13th April.—Two thousand foreign Jews have received a week's notice to quit the city, at the expiration of which they will be expelled. The foreign Jews—or perhaps it would be more correct to say the Jews domiciled here on foreign passports, for a large number of them are Russians by birth—consist of about 10,000 families, and the members of these families are concentrated at about a dozen points, of which 30,000. They are probably more than 45,000. The police are busily examining all passports. According to private or business connections the expulsory notices allow various short periods of respite, for the settlement of business and property affairs. Numbers of the Jews are hiding from the police, and many of them are being expelled within 24 hours.

The greatest hardship falls upon the Roumanian Jews. After the Roumanians, the greater number of the foreign Jews now being expelled are Austrian subjects. I believe explain that a great proportion of them are essentially Roumanian, but within the last ten years they have been driven from their native land by the acquisition of Austrian nationality for themselves and their families. The Roumanian Government have naturally the right to object to their evading civil responsibilities and military service by such means, but we must remember at least these people have been driven, to evasion by crushing disabilities, and their infamous treatment in many provinces by the fanaticism of their Russian neighbours.

One of the foreign Jews under notice of expulsion is a local manufacturer, employing between 300 and 1,000 workpeople of both sexes. The people will of course be thrown out of employment by the closing of the manufactory. The better to succeed in their search the police have divided the city into four sections, in each of which the passport examiners are controlled by a kind of sub-police committee.

This strip of land, hitherto claimed by the Sultan, out of the possessions of the company from the sea, and the treaty therefore gives the company a seaboard.

GERMANY AND ZANZIBAR. Berlin, April 15.—The new Sultan of Zanzibar has signed the treaty concluded between his predecessor and the German East African Company, making only some immaterial amendments. The effect of the treaty is that the strip of territory, ten English miles in breadth, from the northern side of the Joruma to the Umba, that is to say, the river bounding the sphere of the British East Africa Company, is to be transferred to the Sultan, out of the possessions of the company from the sea, and the treaty therefore gives the company a seaboard.

THE SUGAR TRADE. Caspel, April 14.—An international conference of persons connected with the sugar

trade will be held here in Whitman week. It is expected that from 600 to 800 delegates from Germany and foreign countries will be present.

SOUTH AFRICA. Capetown, April 14.—Owing to the menacing attitude of the Boers and the one under the German protection, the Cape Government is about to despatch a detachment of Cape Mounted Rifles for the protection of the Europeans at Walvisch Bay.

The admiral in command of the station has been requested to furnish a gunboat for the conveyance of the troops.

THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL. Vienna, April 15.—Rumours having been circulated as to the Emperor of Brazil's intention to abdicate, it must be stated that they are absolutely denied here, and it is authoritatively asserted that His Majesty will very shortly return to Brazil, where most important State matters await his consideration.

AN ENGLISH ARTIST IN JAPAN. The Times of 16th April says:—We have had lately a superabundance of pictures of the Japanese by themselves, but never till now have we had a whole exhibition devoted to the representation of Japanese life by an English artist. This morning, however, at Messrs Dowdell's gallery in New Bondstreet, such an exhibition is opened to the public; and if we are not mistaken it will be the talk of the town until the Academy opens. Mr. Mortimer Menpes, who has produced these little pictures, drawings, and etchings, is probably the first European artist who has deliberately visited Japan with the intention of making a prolonged study of the life and the art of the people. He did so last year, staying in that country for nine months, and the result of his study is displayed in this charming exhibition.

With his work our readers have from time to time been made acquainted, for we have often called attention to his extremely clever sketches and "impressions," sometimes of French or English children, sometimes of Japanese single figures. Beginning his artistic life as a pupil of Mr. Poynter at South Kensington, he did not remain long under the influence of his master, but learned new methods in France and elsewhere. Like many another modern artist, he was early seized by a passion for Japanese art; he carried his love to a more practical extent than the others, and went to Japan while they remained in London, and talked about the Japanese. The show that he has provided for admirers of the art is extremely correct; the room is hung with silk of the "chrysanthemum pink" which is so much affected by the Japanese, an awning of white-brown linen softens the light, and a floor-cloth of special pale grey felt covers all the rest in harmony. The little pictures are hung in calculated disorder; their frames—of four tints of gold—were all made in Japan, where the common workmen take an artist's pleasure in their work. Of course, all this would be tiresome if the paintings themselves were not very good indeed, but Mr. Menpes knows this perfectly, and has put it all to the service of his work. He is a born colourist; witness such pictures as "The Scarlet Umbrella" or the lowland "Sandpiper" or the "Languor-shop" or any of the street-scenes which abound in the exhibition. The dancing-girls, with their brilliant dresses, have attracted him a good deal, as in the "Three Little Maids from Sackai" which is a von trier to Japanese life than the famous trier to the *Mikado*. One department which Mr. Menpes has neglected is that of the Temple scenes, which every traveller in Japan finds so strangely picturesque. Sometimes, too, he fails to give the curious and distinctive Japanese physiognomy; but generally he succeeds in this as in the other elements of the problem before him.

With the pictures and drawings are exhibited two portfolios of etchings and "dry-points," which well deserve attention. Here Mr. Menpes's debt to Mr. Whistler is very apparent, but in many of the "younger" ones he has equalled the older artist. Such plates as "Osaka," "The Venice of Japan," "Three Fair Ladies," and "Baby and Baby" are touched with extraordinary lightness, and yet are singularly effective. Some of the "dry-points" are so delicate that very few impressions can be taken from the plates, and these have to be printed with extreme care.

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MISCELLANEOUS. The Russian traveller, General Fejervaldsky, is shortly to undertake a fresh journey to the north of his new explorations will be Asia Minor, where he proposes to travel for two years. He will be accompanied by Captain Roberovsky and an escort of twelve Cossacks.

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The premises of the Birmingham Liberal Club, which were erected two years ago at a cost of 64,000l., were brought under the auctioneer's hammer on the 16th April; the Club having failed, and been wound up owing to dissenation in the Liberal Party in the borough. The property was purchased for 23,000l. or 10,000l. less than the sum paid for the site alone three years ago.

The Home Rates of Birmingham are making vigorous efforts to obtain candidates for those divisions of the borough which are represented by the principal Unionists. Mr. Bright, who sits for the Central Division, will be opposed by the President of the Birmingham Liberal Association, Mr. A. O. Carter. The Home Secretary will be in East Birmingham by Mr. Willis. O.C. Endeavours are being made to induce Mr. John Morley to fight for Mr. Chamberlain's seat in the Western Division. Mr. Kenrick's seat will also be assailed, but it is possible that Mr. Collings, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Powell Williams will have little or no opposition.

The impression that the article in the current number of the *Nineteenth Century* is the last from the pen of Mr. Matthew Arnold is erroneous. His last article will appear in the *Contemporary* magazine for May. It consists of the address on John Milton 13th Inst in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on the occasion of the unveiling of the window presented by Mr. George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, in memory of the poet's second wife, Mr. Arnold, in a fine panegyric, describes Milton as the one English writer of the highest rank who wrote in the great style of the ancients.

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Fifty shipwrights of the large number recently hired at Devonport Dockyard

were discharged on Saturday (14th April) after having received 48 hours' notice. Sixteen labourers and ten fitters were discharged, but eight of the ten fitters and all the labourers will be re-entrant. Sixteen shipwrights, who have received 14 days' notice, leave the yard to-day (16th April).

It is now generally understood that Admiral the Earl of Clanwilliam, who as Lord Gifford served as Captain of the Steam Reserve at Portsmouth, will succeed Admiral Sir George Wills as Commander-in-Chief at that port. Admiral Sir John E. Commerell, V.C., M.P., will assume the command at Devonport on the retirement of Admiral Lord John Hay. As the removal of Admiral Wills from the active list will necessitate the promotion of Vice-Admiral Waddell, he will be succeeded as Commander-in-Chief at Sheerness by Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Bonthorne. In this case Admiral Sir William M. Dorell, who is senior to all the new Commanders-in-Chief, will be appointed President of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

Some men are good because goodness pays best, and then, again, some are good for nothing.—*Shaw and Leather Reporter.*

JUDGING from effects, the kind of oil most extensively used for putting on troubled waters is turpentine.—*New York Sun.*

This fellow that has been having the office-door open all winter, and is around shortly to shut it.—*Birmingham Leader.*

A MAN in New York is paid \$12,000 a year for sampling tea. For sampling whisky some men pay out as much as that.

"I HEAR that the heifers you are going to marry have made you give up poker. Yes, it was the lady or the tiger."—*Illustrated.*

CARPAGE used to rhyme "Goose" with "tooth" until the renaissance set in, since which epoch it has rhymed it with "dirty."

"NATIONS are like individuals," says an orator. Not much. You never hear an individual complaining about the size of his surplus.

MINNIE—Papa, what is Volopuk i Papa? Why, it's the universal language. Minnie—But who speaks it? Papa—Nobody.—*Birmingham Reporter.*

A CERTAIN fat man within ten miles of Burlington has a very thin wife. The boys have nicknamed them "enough" and "too spare."—*Burlington Free Press.*

Adam never worried Eve by talking about his mother's cooking, and yet they found something to fall out about.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

SOMEBODY asks, "Does it pay to be good?" It does when the business becomes fully established; but you've got to sink money in the start.—*Puck.*

AND, Johnny, what particular pleasure do you take yourself during Lent? Johnny—I've stopped putting pennies in the box for the

